

Application No.: 10/667,808
Attorney Docket No.: 14846-16

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended hereby. Entry of this Amendment, and reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. This Amendment is being filed together with a petition for extension of time.

Request for Interview

Applicant plans to contact the Examiner to arrange for an interview prior to consideration of this Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030140332 (Norton) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040073870 (Fuh).

As described in the specification of the present application as filed at page 2, lns. 3-5, "a signature is the number and data type of the various parameters that must be passed to a function, along with its return type (*i.e.*, the meaning that is typically employed when dealing with traditional programming languages, such as C, C++ or Java)."

Amended claim 1 of the present application recites, *inter alia*, a "method for use in a distributed processing system to specify an application service." The method includes "defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments, the schema having a nested operation," "validating the operation's signature," and "executing said operation in said distributed processing system."

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Thus, by amended claim 1, a method is provided to specify new functionality that can relate to distributed data processing systems. The claimed invention can be beneficially used to facilitate breaking up an operation so that portions of the operation can be performed in parallel (distributed) instead of in series. The invention can be used to facilitate migrating code to a grid (distributed) computing framework.

Norton describes a system for generating a specialized software development tool, and uses a definition file that defines actions to be performed by the tool, a schema that defines inputs for the tool, and a resource file, that includes information required by the tool at runtime, to generate the software development tool. The tool is used to automatically generate a program. (See Norton at abstract and FIG. 1.)

Norton does not describe "defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments, the schema having a nested operation," "validating the operation's signature," and "executing said operation in said distributed processing system," as recited by amended claim 1.

Thus, while amended claim 1 recites a method that produces a program run on a distributed system that can be altered and still run correctly on the distributed system, in stark contrast, Norton describes a tool for creating a program.

Fuh does not cure the deficiencies of Norton.

Fuh describes a system that includes loading an XML document into a runtime validation engine, where the runtime validation engine includes an XML schema validation parser, loading an annotated automaton encoding (AAE) for an XML schema definition into the XML schema validation parser; and validating the XML document against the XML schema definition by the XML schema validation parser utilizing the annotated automaton encoding. (See Fuh at abstract and FIG. 1.)

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Fuh describes that each of different XML schema definitions are compiled once into AAE (Annotated Automaton Encoding) format. The AAE parser can then be used on any AAE format definition set. *Id.*

While amended claim 1 describes a system that produces a program run on a distributed system that can be altered and still run correctly on the distributed system. In stark contrast, Fuh describes a system for checking XML schemas (i.e., checking for correct formatting of XML pages).

Fuh, either alone, or in any proposed hypothetical combination with Norton, does not teach, describe, or provide motivation for "defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments, the schema having a nested operation," "validating the operation's signature," and "executing said operation in said distributed processing system," as recited by amended claim 1.

Accordingly, applicant submits that neither Norton nor Fuh, either alone, or in the proposed hypothetical combination, does not describe, teach, or provide motivation for the invention recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Each of claims 2-11 ultimately depend from claim 1, that has been shown to be patentable, and is likewise deemed to be patentable, for at least the reasons described above with respect to the patentability of claim 1.

Moreover, claims 2-11 are patentable for additional reasons. For example, amended claim 2 is directed to the method of claim 1 further including "validating the operation's payload after validation of the contents of the payload," and claim 3 is directed to the method of claim 1, further including "defining a schema having a plurality of nested operations," of which no description, teaching or motivation is provided by any hypothetical Norton-Fuh combination.

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Thus, for at least these additional reasons, applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 are patentable over any hypothetical combination of Norton and Fuh.

Thus, applicants submit that each of the claims of the present application are patentable over each of the references of record, either taken alone, or in any proposed hypothetical combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

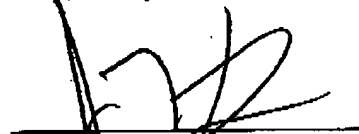
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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. If any additional fee is deemed necessary, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1358. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (973) 597-2500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Date: SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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